

# Telford Table Tennis Association

(Affiliated to Table Tennis England and Shropshire County T.T.A)

## RULES

1. The Team fee as set for each season must be received in order for each team to enter the league.
2. Additional player registrations and transfer requests, must be communicated with the Divisional Secretary for consideration by the Management Committee and must contain the previous playing record of the player(s) for whom registration or transfer is sought. Such requests must be lodged prior to 1st February. The Committee will only consider a request after this date in exceptional circumstances
3.
  - a) A player must be registered and approved by the Divisional Secretary before they play. Player details should be advised as per Rule 2. Failure to do so will result in those games being forfeited.
  - b) All players must have played three matches by the three quarter stage of the season which will be indicated on the fixture details. Team Captains will need to seek approval from the Divisional Secretary to play any player who has played less.
4. All appropriate fees, by crossed cheque are to be made payable to Telford T.T.A and should be forwarded in-accordance with the team fee payment date range communicated at the start of each season.
5. Players registered with the Association may participate in representative matches for other Table Tennis England' affiliated organisations provided that they have not previously been selected to represent the Association during the current season.
6. At the discretion of the Management Committee a 'Guarantee Fee' made payable to the Association may be requested for new teams as a guarantee of their fulfilment of its obligations.
7. Should a team retire from the League for any reason, then no refund of the fees will be made, any matches played shall be deleted from the records as will the players' individual registrations.

8. A Club can have one or more affiliated teams registered. At any point in time an individual player may not be registered with more than one team or Club.
9. Where a Club is running two or more teams in the same Division such teams shall be deemed to be separate clubs, otherwise the "A" team shall be considered of a higher standard than the "B" team and so on.
10. A player shall register for a specific team and under no circumstances shall he/she then play for a team of a lower standard except by obtaining a transfer. In the top Division no player of that Division is permitted to represent a Club team of a higher standard. However players from lower Divisions may 'play up' for any higher team of the same Club. They may play four times in a season for one team only of a higher standard. On their fifth appearance they become a member of that team.
11. In the event of a registered member wishing to leave a Club / team and join another, they must obtain the consent of the Club / team they wish to leave and the Management Committee. A transfer fee to be determined by the Management Committee, must be paid to the Association by the player's new Club / team.
12. Each team must state its Home Match Night which shall not be either a Saturday or a Sunday.
13. A match may be rearranged by mutual consent of both teams.
14. The date of the rearranged fixture must be notified to the appropriate Divisional Secretary by the Home Team once arranged.
15. All fixtures from the first half of the season must be completed by the end of the second 'Free Week' after Christmas. Fixtures from the second half of the season must be completed as specified in the fixture details. No extension will be permitted. Any matches which fail to be completed will be awarded to the Team who were not responsible for the initial cancellation.
16. Clubs / teams shall provide suitable accommodation and lighting facilities for all matches. In the event of any queries or protest the Management Committee shall decide what is or is not suitable.

17. Any team attending an "Away Match" who have an objection to the playing conditions may decline to play the match and have the right of appeal to the Management Committee without penalty. In such a case the match card must be completed and sent to the Divisional Secretary with reasons for the objection. In addition, Club Secretaries must also notify their Divisional Secretary, the Honorary Secretary and all Team Secretaries in the Division concerned of any change of venue, match night or secretary-ship.
18. In the event of a team's non-attendance at a match / re-arranged match without reasonable excuse the opponents will be awarded the match in total. Further action may be taken at the discretion of the Management Committee.
19. All League and Handicap matches shall commence not later than 7:30pm and a minimum of two players from each team must be present by this time. In the event of a match not being started by 7:30pm the match shall be awarded in total to the team present unless sanctioned by the Management Committee.
20. In the event of non-attendance of a singles player by 8:30pm his/her sets shall be considered lost unless a registered reserve be in attendance. Where a player on both sides fails to attend by 8:30pm then both players' sets shall be considered lost and the set between the two shall be ignored. Should a reserve be called on to play he/she must do so throughout the whole of the match.
21. Fixtures shall be played in-accordance with the fixture details except under rule 13. On match night a team may be represented by four registered players, the fourth player being allowed to play in the doubles only. "Methods of play" are as follows: 1 v 1; 2 v 2; 3 v 3; 1 v 2; Doubles; 3 v 1; 2 v 3; 3 v 2; 1 v 3; 2 v 1. All sets to be best of five games. Umpiring to be taken in turn between the two opposing teams.

22. When two tables are available they shall both be used at the discretion of the Home Team. If two tables are used any player may take up to five minutes rest between consecutive sets. The following order of play is suitable for matches played on two tables simultaneously:-

Table 1	Table 2
A v X - Umpire C	B v Y - Umpire Z
C v Z - Umpire X	A v Y - Umpire B
Doubles as normal	
C v X - Umpire Y	B v Z - Umpire A
C v Y - Umpire B	A v Z - Umpire X
B v X - Umpire C	
Home Team A, B, C	Away Team X, Y, Z

23. The game shall be run on Table Tennis England Rules as laid down in their website.
24. Once started the match must be played continually to a finish. One point will be awarded for each set won. If a match is unfinished due to circumstances outside the control of either side it must be replayed.
25. In the case of a tie or ties at the end of the season, the number of matches won shall be the decider. If a tie on matches then a review of the following in the order given will apply to separate the teams:-
- number of games lost.
  - the aggregate result between the teams concerned.
26. It shall be the responsibility of the Home Captain to present his team order to the Away Captain who shall then decide his own team order.
27. The result of each match shall be forwarded to the appropriate Divisional Secretary by the Home Captain or Secretary on a card printed for this purpose. It shall be signed by both Captains and shall indicate the final score etc., such card to be completed in ink and any alterations shall be initialled by both Captains. The result card must be received by the Divisional Secretary within, or postmarked within, 7 working days of playing the match. A penalty may be imposed for each offence on teams not complying with this Rule or Rule 14.

28. Promotion and relegation will take place at the end of each playing season as follows:

DIVISION 1 – two bottom teams relegated to Division 2

DIVISION 2 - two top teams promoted and three bottom teams relegated.

The bottom three teams in the lowest Division to reapply. According to the formation of the League, variation of the above may be required and this may take place at the discretion of the Management Committee. The Management Committee has the power to fill vacancies as it sees fit and to alter a team's divisional status if the composition of that team is changed, and where the Relegation and Promotion structure of the League is altered the composition of the Divisions shall be determined by the Management Committee in the light of the entries received.

29. Only balls approved by the ITTF for use during the current season may be used.
30. The Table Tennis England Rule for the colour of bats will be complied with.
31. A bat shall not be changed during an individual match unless it is accidentally damaged so badly that it cannot be used.
32. All protests or disputes, relating to any matter, shall be communicated in writing to the Honorary Secretary by the Team Secretary for consideration by the Management Committee at their earliest opportunity.
33. All fines not paid within seven days shall be doubled. Non-payment of fines and/or further offences shall render the team liable to suspension or other penalties as may be decided by the Management Committee. Any club or team which has been fined or penalised has the right to appeal to the Management Committee and representatives of any team concerned may be present at the hearing of the appeal. Any member of the Management Committee representing a club concerned shall not be allowed to discuss the resolution or to vote on it.

34. Trophies belonging to the Association remain the property of the Association and any club or individual holding the same shall be responsible for their safe keeping and shall be held liable for restitution in respect of any loss or damage. All cups and shields held by teams and players must be returned to a member of the Management Committee by the end of February in the playing year except that if a team or individual retire from the Association during the playing year all such trophies must be returned immediately on said retirement. Failure to comply will incur a fine of £10.
  
35. In the event of any matter arising not covered by the Rules the decision taken by the Management Committee shall be final.